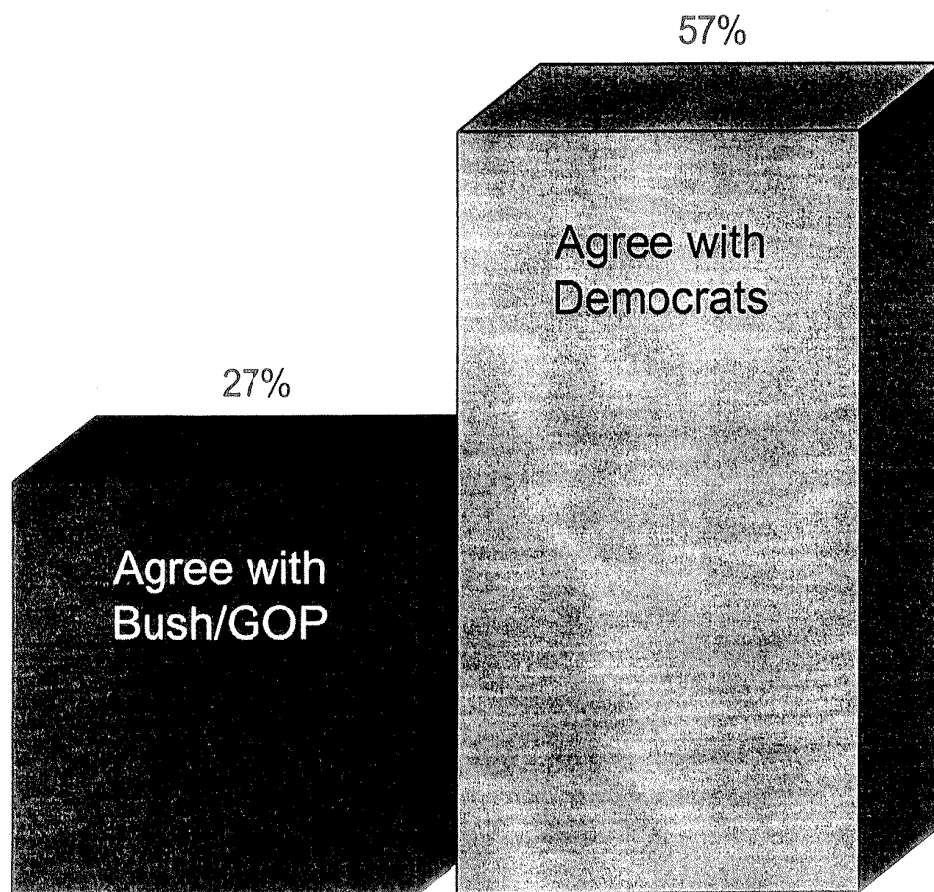


Democrats vs. Bush and Republicans



■ George W. Bush and the Republicans in Congress say that Congress should pass this Medicare prescription drug plan now. It provides drug coverage for many low-income seniors who now have no coverage at all. Coverage is voluntary, so anyone who does not like the plan does not have to participate. It gives seniors more choices and more control over their coverage. Congress should pass this bipartisan plan now, so that seniors get the help they need.

■ The Democrats in Congress say that this Medicare bill does more harm than good, because it will raise Medicare premiums for millions of seniors while forcing others into HMOs, undercuts full government funding of Medicare, and eliminates current drug coverage for millions of retirees. And by preventing importation of lower-cost drugs, it fails to deal with the real problem of outrageously high drug costs. Congress should pass a real prescription drug plan without these extra changes that hurt Medicare.

Congressional Medicare Plan/Hart Research for AFL-CIO
(presented to Democratic Caucus 11-19-03)